

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

5 Claims 1-31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (new): A method for monitoring a condition of a battery which is connectable to an electrical load, comprising the steps of:

10 measuring a voltage characteristic of said battery during a measuring event subsequent to a connection event when a connection relationship between said battery and said electrical load is changed;

storing a plurality of said measured voltage characteristics for a plurality of subsequent magnitudes of said measured voltage characteristics obtained during subsequent measuring events;

15 providing a table of a plurality of pre-selected voltage values, including a threshold acceptability voltage value and a plurality of gradation voltage values;

comparing said measured voltage characteristic to all three of the following:

- a) said pre-selected threshold acceptability voltage value;
- b) said pre-selected plurality of gradation voltage values;
- 20 c) said stored plurality of measured voltage characteristics of said subsequent magnitudes;

providing all three of the following in combination:

- 1) an indication of whether the condition of the battery is acceptable, according to said pre-selected threshold acceptability voltage value;
- 25 2) an indication of the grade of battery condition, according to said pre-selected plurality of gradation voltage values;
- 3) an indication of the trend of battery condition grade, according to said plurality of measured voltage characteristics.

30 Claim 33 (new): The method according to claim 32 comprising using said indication of said

trend of battery condition grade, according to said plurality of measured voltage characteristics, to predict a future time when said measured voltage characteristic becomes less than said pre-selected threshold acceptability voltage value whereupon the condition of the battery becomes unacceptable.

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Claim 34 (new): The method according to claim 32 wherein said measured voltage characteristic is a minimum voltage magnitude which is subsequent to said connection event.

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Claim 35 (new): The method according to claim 32 wherein said measured voltage characteristic is a voltage magnitude measured at a pre-determined time which is subsequent to said connection event.

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Claim 36 (new): The method according to claim 32 wherein said measured voltage characteristic is a voltage magnitude measured subsequent to a minimum voltage magnitude which is subsequent to said connection event.